

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1 and 22 are currently amended, and claims 37-40 have been added. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-40 are pending.

The applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 10, 14-15, 17-21 and 23-36.

Claims 1-9, 11-13, 16 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chen (US 6,164,157). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 22 have been amended to clarify that the outer seal prevents contaminants from entering past the outer seal into the adapter member and that the inner seal prevents contaminants from entering past the inner seal into the adapter member. Chen discloses a bicycle crankset wherein a fastening nut (50) is mounted to a crank arm (90). A rubber washer (60) (interpreted to be an outer seal) is disposed on a laterally inner peripheral surface of fastening nut (50), a retaining washer (70) is disposed on a laterally outer peripheral surface of fastening nut (50), and a tightening nut (80) screws onto the outer peripheral surface of crank arm (90) to retain the assembly to a sleeve (20). Chen's washer (60) has a space between it and bearing seat (30), so clearly washer (60) cannot prevent contaminants from entering past it into the adapter member (30).

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 has been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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